

Syllabic Language for Rudimental Drummers

Vocal Drumming

Basics

	Right	Left
	a	i
CH Notation	Over the line	Under the line
FR Notation	Under the line	Over the line
GB Notation	Over the line	Under the line
US Notation	R	L

Strokes

	Not accented	Accented, mf, f, or ff
Tap	d	T
Flam	fl	fL
Inverted flam tap	gd	gT

Rolls

	Not accented	Accented, mf, f, or ff
Roll without flam	r	R
Flammed roll	fr	fR

Writing

Whole notes	da di da di da	(Five taps: R L R L R)
Half notes	da di da di da	
4 th notes	da di da di da	
8th notes	da di da di da	
16th notes	dadidadida	
32 nd notes	dadidadida	Spaced Not spaced

Whole, half, and 4th notes as 8th notes. Several spaces would take too much place.

32nd notes as 16th notes. It is impossible to articulate 32nd notes sequences (patterns) in tempo. (Except maybe for mouth-tongue-acrobats.)

Dynamics **Small letter = pp, p, and mp** (non-accentuated notes only)
Capital letters = mf, f, ff, and accentuated notes (also in pp, p, and mp)

No letters under bar lines unless there is a slur (legato) over it. (Rolls)

Syllables

Strokes			Tap	Flam	Inverted flam tap
	Right	Not accented	da	fla	gda
		Accented	Ta	fLa	gTa
	Left	Not accented	di	fli	gdi
Accented		Ti	fLi	gTi	

Rolls (w/o flam)	Number of strokes:		3	5	7	9	11	13	15	etc.	
	Right	Not accented	ra	rra	rrra	rrrra	rrrrra	rrrrrra	rrrrrrra		rrrrrrra
		Accented	Ra	Rra	Rrra	Rrrra	Rrrrra	Rrrrrra	Rrrrrrra		Rrrrrrra
	Left	Not accented	ri	rri	rrri	rrrri	rrrrri	rrrrrri	rrrrrrri		rrrrrrri
		Accented	Ri	Rri	Rrri	Rrrri	Rrrrrri	Rrrrrrri	Rrrrrrrri		Rrrrrrrri
R = mf, f, ff or accentuated		1r	2r	3r	4r	5r	6r	7r			

Flammed rolls	Number of strokes:		3	5	7	9	11	13	15	etc.	
	Right	Not accentuated	fra	frra	frrra	frrrra	frrrrra	frrrrrra	frrrrrrra		frrrrrrra
		Accentuated	fRa	fRra	fRrra	fRrrra	fRrrrra	fRrrrrra	fRrrrrrra		fRrrrrrra
	Left	Not accentuated	fri	frri	frrri	frrrri	frrrrri	frrrrrri	frrrrrrri		frrrrrrri
		Accentuated	fRi	fRri	fRrri	fRrrri	fRrrrri	fRrrrrri	fRrrrrrri		fRrrrrrrri
f = flam		f+1r	f+2r	f+3r	f+4r	f+5r	f+6r	f+7r			

Pronunciation

Syllable	Meaning	Accentuated (Yes/No)	Pronunciation as in (*)
a	Right	(**)	paradiddle \ 'ə \
i	Left	(**)	paradiddle \ 'i \
da	Right tap	No	da capo \ 'də \
di	Left tap	No	paradiddle \ 'di \
Ta	Accentuated right tap	Yes	ra tamacue \ 'tə \
Ti	Accentuated left tap	Yes	ti mpani \ 'ti \
fla	Right flam	No	fla macue \ 'flə \
fli	Left flam	No	fli cflac \ 'fli \
fLa	Accentuated right flam	Yes	fla macue \ 'flə \
fLi	Accentuated left flam	Yes	fli cflac \ 'fli \
gda	Right inverted flam tap	No	gda ble \ 'gdə \
gdi	Left inverted flam tap	No	gdi er \ 'gdi \
gTa	Accentuated right inverted flam tap	Yes	gta way \ 'gdə \
gTi	Accentuated left inverted flam tap	Yes	gta ctic \ 'gti \
ra	Right roll	No	ra tamacue \ 'rə \
ri	Left roll	No	tri plet \ 'ri \
Ra	Accentuated right roll	Yes	ra tamacue \ 'rə \
Ri	Accentuated left roll	Yes	tri plet \ 'ri \
* Pronounce bold letters only.			
** Emphasize 'a' resp. 'i' when pronouncing accentuated notes.			

Examples of rolls

rra	rr = Not flammed and not acc. (no f and no R) 5 stroke roll, a = right
Rra	Right (a), accentuated, mf, f or ff (R) 5 stroke roll (2r) without flam (no f)
rri	Left (i), not accentuated 5 stroke roll (rr) without flam (no f)
Rri	Rr = Accentuated, mf, f or ff (R) 5 stroke roll, i = left (Without flam as there is no f.)
rrra	rrr = 7 stroke roll, a = right (No R = not accentuated, and no f = not flammed.)
frrrra	f = flammed, rrrr = not accentuated (no R) 9 stroke roll, a = right
fRrrra	Right (a), flammed (f), accentuated, or mf, f or ff (R) 9 stroke roll (4r)
fRrrri	Left (i), flammed (f), accentuated or mf, f or ff (R) 9 stroke roll (4r)

Examples of Possible Use

Beginnings of Solos	Scores	Syllabic Language
Celanese		fRra gdi gda gdi gda gdi gda
dr Drummler		fRra gdi gdadi RiTa gdi gda
Dr Grien Hund		fRra gdi gda gdi gda RriTaTi
Pumperniggel		fRra fla fLifLa gdi gda
Walliser		frradidaflifLadidaflifLa gdi gda

Finals of Drum Solos	Scores	Syllabic Language
Final of 7		frra rridadi RraTiTa
Celanese		frra rridadiTaTi Rra
dr Drummler		frra rridaTi Ri Rra

Rudiments as in "Wirbel" (SDFAI')

Syllabic language

Tap/Single stroke roll



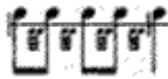
da di da di da di da di da di
da = tap (d), right (a); di = tap (d), left (i)

Long roll



da da di di da da di di dadadidi

3 stroke roll



da ra ra ra ra
ra = right (a) 3 stroke roll (1r)

Paradiddle



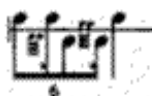
TadidadaTidadidiTa
Ta = accentuated tap (T) right (a)
Ti = accentuated tap (T) left (i)

Double paradiddle



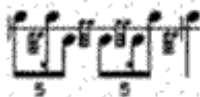
TadidadidadaTidadidadiTa

Single drag tap



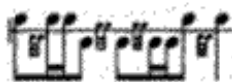
da radi rida
ra = right 3 stroke roll (1r), ri = left 3 stroke roll

Double drag tap



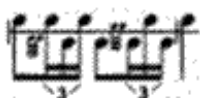
da radi ri rida ra

Triplet reveille stroke



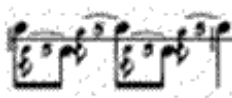
da radadi ri ridi da ra

Single ratamacue



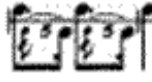
da radidadi ridadida

5 stroke roll from hand to hand



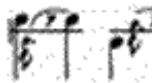
da rri rra rri rra
rri = left 5 stroke roll without flam (2r, no f)
rra = right 5 stroke roll without flam

6 stroke roll right/left



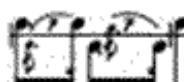
da rrida rrida

7 stroke roll right/left



da rrra / di rrrri
rrra = right 7 stroke roll (3r) / rrrri = left 7 stroke roll (no flam)

8 stroke roll from hand to hand



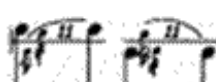
da rrradi rrrida

9 stroke roll from hand to hand



da rrrri rrrra
rrri = left 9 stroke roll (4r)
rrra = right 9 stroke roll

11 stroke roll right/left



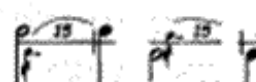
da rrrrra / di rrrrri
rrrrra = right 11 stroke roll (5r)
rrrrri = left 11 stroke roll

13 stroke roll from hand to hand



da rrrrrri rrrrrra
rrrrri = left 13 stroke roll (6r)
rrrrra = right 13 stroke roll

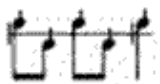
15 stroke roll right/left



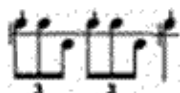
da rrrrrra / di rrrrrri
rrrrra = right 15 stroke roll (7r)
rrrrri = left 15 stroke roll

Rudiments as in "Wirbel" (cont.)

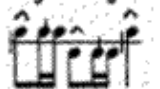
Flam



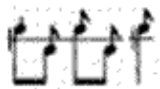
Swiss army triplet



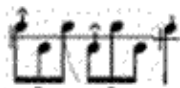
Stroke of 3



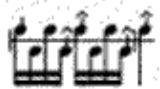
Inverted flam tap



Patafla (aka Flam accent)



Pataflafla



Flammed 5 stroke roll



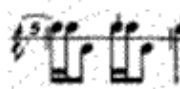
Flammed 9 stroke roll



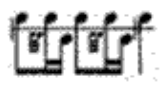
**6/8-time marching
rudiment**



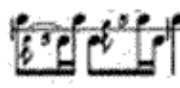
**2/4-time marching
rudiment**



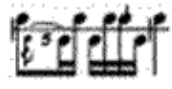
Lesson 25



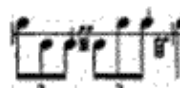
Final of 7



Millwheel stroke



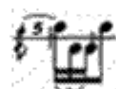
Märmeli stroke



Flammed charge stroke



**Flammed charge stroke
triplet**



Syllabic language

fla fli fla fli fla

fla = right flam, fli = left flam

fla da di fla da di fla

Ta fladaTi flidiTa

Ta = accentuated tap (T) right (a)

Ti = accentuated tap (T) left (i)

fla gdi gda gdi gda

gdi = left (i) inverted flam tap (gd)

gda = right (a) inverted flam tap (gd)

fLa di da fLi da di fLa

fLa = accentuated (L) right (a) flam

fLi = accentuated (L) left (i) flam

fLadidaflifLadidaflifLa

(Missing accent on the first flam!)

frra frra frra

frra = flammed (f) right (a) 5 stroke roll (2r)

frrrra frrrra

frrrra = flammed right 9 stroke roll (f + 4r + a)

frra da di fla da di fla

frradadi fladadi fla

da radida radida

da rridadi rradida

rri = left 5 stroke roll without flam (no f)

rra = right 5 stroke roll without flam (no f)

da rridadidafladida

da di fli ri da fla ra

frradiflida

frradiflida

Summary

da = right stroke
di = left stroke

da di

da di da di

da di da di

da di da di da da di di

da di da di da di da di da da di di

100 BPM? -Don't even think of it.

'fl' as in flam

fla fli fla fli fla fli fla fli fla

fla gdi gda gdi gda gdi gda

Accent = CAPITAL LETTER (L, T)

fLa fli fLa gdi gTa gdi gTa

pp, p and mp = small letter
mf, f and ff = CAPITAL LETTER (L, T)

fLa gdi gda gdi gTa gTi gTa

fLa gdi gda gdi gTa gTi gTa

fLa radi Rra Rrradidadida fRrrra gdi gda RrrrraTidadi RrrrrraTadidida Rrrrrra

Four practical examples (Swiss notation with syllabic language)

1

f p f p f p

fRra di da Rrra di da RrradidadaTidaTiTi Ta di da Rrra di da Rrra di da RrradidadaTidaTiTi Ta

2

f p f p f p

fRra fli fla Rrra fli fla RrradidafLifLadiTafLi fla fli fla Rrra fli fla Rrra fli fla RrradidafLifLadiTafLi fla

3

f p f p f p f p f p f p f p

fRra gdi gda fRra gdi gda frradidafLidadiLadi fla gdi gda fRra gdi gda fRra gdi gda frra rridaTi RraTi Ta

4

f p f p f p f p

fRra flidida frradidafLifLa frra radi ri riTa Ra gTi gda fRra flidida fRra Rridadi frra rridaTi RrrraTi

Examples 1 and 2 in French notation

1

Example 1 consists of two systems of music. The first system has three measures: the first measure is in 9/16 time with a forte (*f*) dynamic, the second measure is in 2/4 time with a piano (*P*) dynamic, and the third measure is in 9/16 time with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system has three measures: the first measure is in 9/16 time with a forte (*f*) dynamic, the second measure is in 2/4 time with a piano (*P*) dynamic, and the third measure is in 9/16 time with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The lyrics are: fRr.....a di da Rrr.....a di da Rrr.....a di da da Ti da Ti Ti Ta di da Rrr... and ...a di da Rrr.....a di da Rrr.....a di da da Ti da Ti Ti Ta.

2

Example 2 consists of two systems of music. The first system has three measures: the first measure is in 9/16 time with a forte (*f*) dynamic, the second measure is in 2/4 time with a piano (*P*) dynamic, and the third measure is in 9/16 time with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system has three measures: the first measure is in 9/16 time with a forte (*f*) dynamic, the second measure is in 2/4 time with a piano (*P*) dynamic, and the third measure is in 9/16 time with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The lyrics are: fRr.....a fli fla Rrr.....a fli fla Rrr.....a di da fLi fLa di Ta fLi fLa fli fla Rrr... and ...a fli fla Rrr.....a fli fla Rrr.....a di da fLi fLa di Ta fLi fLa.

Examples 1 and 2 in GB notation

1

Example 1 musical notation. The first staff contains the lyrics: fRr.....a di da Rrr.....a di da Rrr.....a di da da Ti da Ti Ti Ta di da Rrr... with dynamics *f* and *p*. The second staff continues the lyrics: ...a di da Rrr.....a di da Rrr.....a di da da Ti da Ti Ti Ta with dynamics *f* and *p*. The notation includes a key signature of one sharp (F#), a time signature of 9/16, and a 2/4 time signature change.

2

Example 2 musical notation. The first staff contains the lyrics: fRr.....a fli fla Rrr.....a fli fla Rrr.....a di da fLi fLa di Ta fLi fLa fli fla Rrr... with dynamics *f* and *p*. The second staff continues the lyrics: ...a fli fla Rrr.....a fli fla Rrr.....a di da fLi fLa di Ta fLi fLa with dynamics *f* and *p*. The notation includes a key signature of one sharp (F#), a time signature of 9/16, and a 2/4 time signature change.

Examples 1 and 2 in US notation

1

Example 1 consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a 9/16 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is marked with *f* and *p* dynamics. The rhythm is a series of eighth notes, with some beamed together. The second staff continues the pattern, with a 2/4 time signature change in the middle. The lyrics are: *f*Rr.....a di da Rrr.....a di da Rrr.....a di da da Ti da Ti Ti Ta di da Rrr...

2

Example 2 consists of two staves of music, similar in structure to Example 1. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a 9/16 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is marked with *f* and *p* dynamics. The rhythm is a series of eighth notes, with some beamed together. The second staff continues the pattern, with a 2/4 time signature change in the middle. The lyrics are: *f*Rr.....a fli fla Rrr.....a fli fla Rrr.....a di da fLi fLa di Ta fLi fLa fli fla Rrr...

ⁱ Swiss Drummers' and Fifers' Association